



Docket No.: 04995/039001
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Chiharu Matsukawa

Conf. No: 7402

Application No.: 10/008,688

Art Unit: 3651

Filed: November 8, 2001

Examiner: P. H. Mackey

For: ROTATABLE SHEET TRAY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF CHIHARU MATSUKAWA

I, Chiharu Matsukawa, hereby declare:

1. I received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Setsunan University, Japan in 1988.

2. I have been employed in the Consumer Technology Industry for over 16 years. During that time, I have been primarily involved with the research and design of information devices such as, but not limited to, laser printers, photograph printers, and facsimile machines. More specifically, I worked in the Facsimile Development Department at Funai Electric Co, Ltd. from 1992-2001 and in the Laser Beam Printer Development Department at Funai Electric Co, Ltd. from 2001-present.

3. I am currently employed by Funai Electric Co, Ltd., the current assignee of the entire right of the present patent application, and have been employed by Funai Electric Co, Ltd. for the past 16 years.

4. I am the inventor of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/008,668 entitled "Rotatable Sheet Tray" filed November 8, 2001.

5. I have read, and fully understand, the above U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/008,668 entitled "Rotatable Sheet Tray" filed November 8, 2001. Also, I have read, and fully understand, U.S. Patent No. 5,975,520 ("Shim") and U.S. Patent No. 6,070,868 ("Nagato").

6. Based on my reading and understanding of this patent application and my skill in the art, I recognize rib (29) disclosed in Nagato as preventing the rotation of auxiliary tray (25) when the auxiliary tray (25) is in the open position. After reviewing the teachings of Nagato in view of well established physics principles, I further recognize that the orientation of the rib (29) in Nagato can only provide a force to stabilize the auxiliary tray (25) in the open position. Moreover, based on the orientation of the sheet feeder in Nagato I cannot ascertain how the rib (29) could exert a frontwardly pushing force on the main tray (21).

7. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and are believed to be true. Further, these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signed this 26 day of NOVEMBER 2004.

CHIHARU MATSUKAWA

Chiharu Matsukawa

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Application No. (if known): 10/008,688

Attorney Docket No.: 04995/039001

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Expert Declaration of Chiharu Matsukawa